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Commissioner Michael J. Copps Federal Communications Commission 455 12th Street, SW Washington, D.C. 20554

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May 28, 2003

Chairman Michael K. Powell Commissioner Kathleen O. Abernathy Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein Commissioner Michael J. Copps Commissioner Kevin J. Martin **Federal Communications Commission** 445 12th Street, SW Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 02-277

Dear Commissioners:

We write to comment on Docket No. 02-277, the Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In promoting its supposed goals of fair competition, diversity and local voice in today's media market, we strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of the huge, dominant companies and players in the broadcast industry.

We do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate, or even attempt to demonstrate, the negative effects that media deregulation and consolidation have had on the diversity of our media. While there may indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented has been severely limited.

Our family has noticed a significant decline in the variety, diversity, and quality of radio programming in the last several years since Congress deregulated the telecommunications industry. We are deeply concerned that television programming will decline if fewer and fewer companies control those airwaves.

We urge you to preserve the public interest by keeping the media ownership rules intact.

We strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public. The customary atmosphere of an FCC rulemaking is not an appropriate decision-making venue when questions as profound as the freedom of our media are at stake. We encourage the Commissioners to come out and meet some of the people who do not have a financial interest in this issue, but a social interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is important that the Commission take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Verx truly yours.

Gary M. Maveal

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